

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOLUME VIII. NO. 29.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1890.

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TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

A number of firemen and others interested in the controversy between the Township Committee and the Gamewell Fire Alarm Company were present at the Township Committee on Monday night. Mr. Halfpenny, Chairman of the Fire Committee, related in detail the whole matter and at his request the Clerk read a number of letters that had passed between the Company and the Fire Committee in the matter. Mr. Halfpenny stated that at the meeting in the Truck House on Saturday morning, the Fire Committee declined to accept the Fire Alarm system from the hands of the Gamewell Company on the ground that the Company had failed to obtain consent of property-owners for the erection of poles. The Agent of the Gamewell Company, Mr. Torrey, contended that the consents were a matter for the Township Committee to obtain.

The fact that the contract stipulated that the Committee should designate a route, or in other words furnish right of way was in the opinion of the Company's agent conclusive evidence that the Committee could do nothing other than accept the system. The Fire Committee admitted that the Township Committee could and did designate a route, but they maintained that they had no right to grant any corporate power to erect a pole in front of a piece of property without the owner's consent. The whole controversy hinges on this point. The Fire Committee did not feel justified in accepting the system when it was not perfectly clear that the town would have absolute ownership and control of the plant.

Mr. William Bromley, a well known and highly esteemed resident of this town, died at his home on Bloomfield avenue last Monday morning after a lingering attack of Bright's Disease. Mr. Bromley was a member of the firm of Bromley & Son, contractors, at the foot of Eighth Street. He served his time at that establishment and when 21 years old took a position as superintendent of the Fulton Iron Works, controlled by Pease & Murphy, at the foot of Corlears street. When this firm dissolved and then with several other companies consolidated with the Quadrant Iron Works under that name. Mr. Bromley was offered the same position that he had held with Pease & Murphy. He accepted and ten years ago was admitted to partnership in the concern. He continued to be superintendent up to about a year ago, when he was first taken ill. Since then he has not been actively employed in any business but has still retained his interest in the iron concern. Mr. Bromley leaves a wife, Mr. Bromley was a prominent member of the Park M. E. Church and took an active part in the affairs of the church. He was president of the board of trustees. His funeral took place from the church on Wednesday afternoon and was largely attended.

Aside from the legal question at issue, several other points have come up in relation to the system that tend to give color to the fact that the Gamewell Company has done as little as could for the money.

Committeeman Cockfayle stated that the poles were not put in the ground deep enough and would require resetting before long. Committeeman Van Giesen asserted that the wood was rotten in a number of instances.

Bills of new dollars each were presented by James Douglas, of Phoenix Hose House, and Fornoff of Excelsior Hose House, for services on election day. Clerk Farland stated that it had not yet been determined whether the town or county paid the bills for incidental expenses of the recent election. The bills were laid over.

The Legal Committee reported on a number of matters that had been referred to them. In the matter of opening Race street and Newark avenue, the Committee reported that the town had no jurisdiction.

With respect to passing an ordinance forbidding the carrying of guns and other fire arms unenclosed, it was reported that the Committee had no power to pass such an ordinance.

In the question whether the Venetian Lattice Ordnance applied to home peddlers or not it was reported that it did.

In the matter of the grading of the sidewalk on the south side of Belleville Avenue, the Committee reported that the Town Committee had power to remove any trees that may be in the way. This opinion was requested by the Sidewalk Committee. A petition for a flag stone sidewalk was received by it, to be laid on the south side of Belleville Avenue between Elm street and the Canal. A number of fine elm trees would be destroyed in grading for the walk. There is considerable opposition to the destruction of the trees and the Committee wished to make sure that they had the legal power before entering on the work.

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